litigants to court orders, judgements and statement of witnesses, facilitate the judicial officers in their day to day functioning in justice delivery, ensure transparency in the system and generally benefit all stakeholders and enhance judicial productivity.

With a view to help courts to decide cases efficiently, the Government has taken a number of steps to off load the burden of couts due to backlog of cases by increasing the Judge strength from time to time. Besides this, measures such as grouping of cases involving common questions of law, constitution of specialised benches and organizing Lok Adalats at regular intervals, etc. have been taken. Alternative modes of disposal including mediation, negotiation and arbitration have been encouraged. Special tribunals like Central Administrative Tribunal, State Administrative Tribunals, Income Tax Appellate Tribunals, Family Courts, Labour Courts, Consumer Courts etc. have been set up to expedite disposal of cases in different areas. Information technology is being used in generation of cause lists, providing information to the litigants/Advocates etc. for speedy disposal of cases. Fast Track Courts (FTC) for the disposal of long pending cases, particularly sessions cases and cases involving undertrials in jails have been set up. The Government has extended the term of existing 1562 Fast Track Courts, which were functional as on 31.3.2005, for another five years *i.e.* upto 31.3.2010 for clearing huge pendency of cases at District level.

The Code of Criminal Procedure has also been amended to introduce certain provisions for speedy disposal of cases. The concept of plea bargaining was also introduced.

There is no proposal under consideration of Government for developing an incentive based system of giving grants to courts for clearing backlog of cases.

Cases pending in courts

†4188. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number and duration of pending cases regarding constitutional, civil, labour, election, writ petition, public interest litigation, special leave

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

petitions and contempt of courts in the Supreme Court and various courts of the country, court-wise and category-wise,

(b) the reasons for delay in disposal of these cases; and

(c) the steps considered to be taken by Government for early disposal of pending cases?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) This Department does not maintain such information, court and category-wise, in respect of the various courts of the country. The information with regard to cases pending in the Supreme Court, however, has been sought from the Hon'ble apex court and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course of time.

(b) and (c) Disposal of cases and time taken in such disposal are matters that fall exclusively in the domain of the judiciary. There are a number of reasons for delay in disposal of the cases that include inadequacy of judge strength, delays in filling up of vacancies, population and litigation explosion, delays attributable to memebrs of the Bar and the like. With a view to reducing pendency in the courts, Government has taken steps to increase the judge strength from time to time and has extended the term of central assistance to Fast Track Courts for a period of five years beyond 31.3.2005 *i.e.* upto 31.3.2010. Other measures like grouping of cases involving common question of law and application of Information and Communication Technology in the courts have also been taken. Tribunals like Central Administrative Tribunal, State Administrative Tribunals, etc. have been set up to dispose of cases in different areas. Government has encouraged alternative modes of disposal, which include mediation, negotiation and arbitration.

Delimitation of constituencies

4189. SHRI SURESH BHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a commission for delimitation of Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha constituencies has been constituted by Government;

(b) if so, when its term will expire;

(c) whether the commission has submitted its report;